



amazon.com

Get our Next Generation in IT Strategy Playbook

**Bartleby.com** Great Books Online

Search Dictionary

Home Subjects Titles Authors Encyclopedia Dictionary Thesaurus Quotations English Usage

Reference > American Heritage® > Dictionary

defile<sup>2</sup> definendum >

CONTENTS · INDEX · ILLUSTRATIONS · BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language: Fourth Edition. 2000.

## define

**SYLLABICATION:** de·fine

**PRONUNCIATION:**  dī-fīn'

**VERB:** Inflected forms: **de·fined**, **de·fin·ing**, **de·fines**

**TRANSITIVE VERB:** 1a. To state the precise meaning of (a word or sense of a word, for example). b. To describe the nature or basic qualities of; explain: *define the properties of a new drug; a study that defines people according to their median incomes.* 2a. To delineate the outline or form of: *gentle hills that were defined against the sky.* b. To specify distinctly: *define the weapons to be used in limited warfare.* 3. To give form or meaning to: "For him, a life is defined by action" (Jay Parini, *Boston Globe Magazine* Oct. 1, 1990).

**INTRANSITIVE VERB:** To make or write a definition.

**ETYMOLOGY:**

Middle English *definen*, *diffinen*, from Old French *definir*, *diffiner*, from Latin *definire*, to limit, determine: *de-*, intensive pref.; see *de-* + *finis*, boundary, limit.

**OTHER FORMS:** **de·fin·a·bil·i·ty** —NOUN

**de·fin·a·ble** —ADJECTIVE

**de·fin·a·bly** —ADVERB

**de·fine·ment** —NOUN

**de·fin·er** —NOUN

**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fourth Edition. Copyright © 2000 by Houghton Mifflin Company. Published by the

Houghton Mifflin Company. All rights reserved.

[CONTENTS](#) · [INDEX](#) · [ILLUSTRATIONS](#) · [BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD](#)

◀ [defile<sup>2</sup>](#)

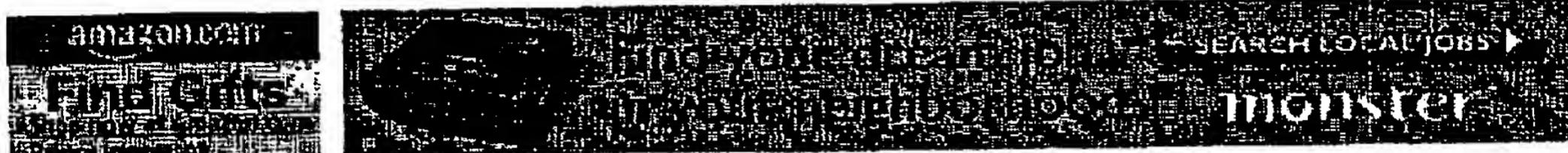
[definiendum](#) ▶

Google

[Search](#)

[Click here to shop the Bartleby Bookstore.](#)

[Welcome](#) · [Press](#) · [Advertising](#) · [Linking](#) · [Terms of Use](#) · © 2005 Bartleby.com



BEST AVAILABLE COPY